

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 08966 091649Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3052

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BL

SUBJ: GOB ANNOUNCES UPCOMING CABINET CHANGES

1. LA PAZ PRESS NOVEMBER 9 REPORTS GOB ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PREVIOUS EVENING THAT SEVERAL CABINET CHANGES WILL OCCUR THE SAME DATE, THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF AN ALL MILITARY CABINET BY PRESIDENT BANZER IN 1974.

2. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS OF SPECIFIC CHANGES WILL BE MADE ON NOVEMBER 9, BUT THE PRESS STATES THAT GENERAL JOSE ANTONIO ZELAYA, MINISTER OF MINES, COULD BE CHANGED. ZELAYA TOLD AN EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE NOVEMBER 8 THAT HE WAS BEING REMOVED. THERE IS ALSO SPECULATION THAT THE MINSTERS OF HEALTH, FINANCE, ENERGY AND HYDROCARBONS, AND EDUCATION WOULD BE CHANGED.

3. ALTHOUGH NOT MENTIONED IN THE PRESS, WE UNDERSTAND THAT MINISTER OF INTERIOR, JUAN PEREDA, WILL BE CHANGED. PEREDA HAD MENTIONED TO EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT HE WAS FEELING THE STRAIN OF HIS JOB AND HOPED TO BE RELIEVED. PEREDA IS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL CABINET MEMBER AND AN INTIMATE OF THE PRESIDENT'S AND IT IS SURPRISING THAT THE PRESIDENT IS LETTING HIM STEP DOWN.
STEDMAN

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